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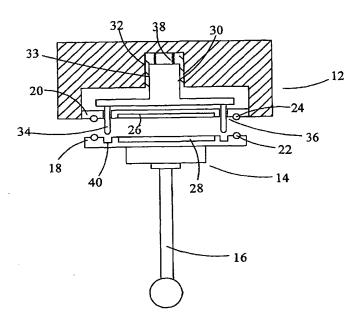
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[Continued on next page]

#### (54) Title: KINEMATIC COUPLING WITH DAMPER



(57) Abstract: Apparatus for releasably connecting together two members (18, 20) comprises two members (18, 20), each provided with co-operating elements (22a, 24A) to define the location of one member with respect to the other member. A damper (30) is provided on at least one of the members to reduce the impact when the two members are joined together. The two members may comprise two modules of a modular surface sensing probe. The damper may include guide means to assist in guiding the members together.



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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G01B5/012 G01E G01B7/012 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) GO1B IPC 7 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category ° 1,2, EP 0 426 492 A (RANK TAYLOR HOBSON LTD) X 7-14,17 8 May 1991 (1991-05-08) 3-6,15,column 24, line 38 -column 25, line 15; figures 1,3-5 16 US 5 259 122 A (ICHIBA YASUHIRO ET AL) 1,9-14, 9 November 1993 (1993-11-09) 3,15,16 the whole document 3, 15, 16 WO 01 92829 A (MARPOSS APP ELETT ; DALL AGLIO CARLO (IT)) 6 December 2001 (2001-12-06) abstract; figures 1,3 4-6 Y US 5 353 514 A (MCMURTRY DAVID R) 11 October 1994 (1994-10-11) abstract; figure 1 -/--Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance Invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 05/08/2003 17 July 2003 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 Lasa, A

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